

The Intelligencer.

Office 25 & 27 Fourteenth Street.

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21, 1877.

THE LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

House met at 9 o'clock.
Prayer by Rev. S. B. Barnitz.
On motion the reading of yesterday's Journal was dispensed with.

Mr. Faulkner, from the Committee on Counties, Districts and Municipal Corporations, reported House Bill No. 164, to amend the charter of the town of Harper's Ferry, not to pass.

Also, as inexpedient, petition of 188 citizens of Marion county, asking that the charter of the town of Mannington be amended.

Mr. Barr, from the Judiciary Committee, reported back not to pass, House Bill No. 188, 176 and 186.

The committee also reported to pass, as amended, House Bill No. 50, concerning domestic violence.

Mr. Riley, from the Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills, reported as correctly enrolled for the signature of the Speaker, an act to amend an act providing for official bonds and bonds taken in judicial proceedings.

An act regarding the times for holding the county courts for the county of Calhoun.

An act regulating appeals, writs of error and superseas.

An act in relation to the compensation of witnesses.

Joint Resolution No. 14, for the relief of James L. Morehead. Whereupon the Speaker signed the same.

Mr. Henderson, from the Committee on Arts, Sciences and General Improvements, reported back a resolution to provide for establishing a State Board of Agriculture, without recommendation.

Mr. Ferguson offered the following: Resolved, That during the remainder of the session no member shall speak more than ten minutes on any question pending before the House.

Mr. Stinson offered an amendment to strike out ten minutes and insert five minutes, which was adopted.

The resolution, as amended, was then adopted.

Mr. Hall introduced a bill to change the name of the "Exchange Bank of Wheeling" to "Exchange Bank."

Mr. Arnold offered Joint Resolution No. 21, providing that the Legislature take a recess at 12 M., on Friday, February 23, until 12 M., on Thursday, November 8, 1877. Laid on the table for one day.

Leave of absence for one day was granted to Mr. Elliott.

The following bills were read a second time and ordered to be engrossed and read a third time:

House Bill No. 83, to legalize the election of two justices in the county of Tyler.

House Bill No. 100, to authorize County Courts to construct roads on petition of land owners along the line of the proposed road. Laid upon the table.

House Bill No. 140, to incorporate the Cumberland and North Branch Railroad. Laid on the table.

House Bill No. 70, to establish a State Board of Health. On motion of Mr. Siple it was indefinitely postponed.

House Bill No. 18, in relation to the Charter of the City of Charleston, Kanawha county, which after some amendments was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

House Bill No. 128, providing that no license tax shall be imposed upon peddlers and persons selling goods by sample, etc. Which on motion of Mr. Ferguson was laid on the table.

House Bill No. 64, prohibiting members of the Legislature from traveling on railroads free of charge, was read a second time and on motion of Mr. Beckley, the bill was indefinitely postponed.

House Bill No. 88, authorizing the construction of side-walks within one mile of incorporated towns, and to protect the same, was ordered to its engrossment.

House Bill No. 54, regulating pleadings in actions on policies of insurance, was ordered to its engrossment.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Dennis, announced the passage, by the Senate, of House Bill No. 26, to increase the supply of food fishes in the waters of this State.

Also, House Bill No. 116, for the relief of J. W. & Wm. S. Armstrong.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Dennis, announced the passage, by the Senate, of House Bill No. 52, in relation to the incorporation of the City of Wheeling.

Mr. Hean presented an invitation to the members of the House from the officers of the Children's Home to visit that institution.

The invitation was received and laid on the table.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Grantham, announced the passage of House Bill No. 147, authorizing the Attorney General to protect the interests of the citizens of this State in certain suits.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Burdett, announced the passage of House Bill No. 46.

On motion of Mr. Hardman, the House took a recess until 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.
House met at 2:30 P. M.

The following bills were read a second time and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

House Bill No. 182, to pay to Wm. M. Peyton \$74.71 for taxes erroneously assessed.

Substitute House Bill No. 91, concerning vacancies in the Hospital for the Insane.

House Bill No. 130, concerning licenses, was taken up, and on motion of Mr. McFadden the further consideration of the bill was suspended in order to take up House Bill No. 100, concerning county roads, which was read a second time and rejected.

House Bill No. 130 was then taken up, and, as amended, ordered to its engrossment and third reading.

On motion, the vote by which House Bill No. 100 was rejected was reconsidered, and the bill ordered to its engrossment.

A message from the Senate, by Senator Scott, announced the passage by the Senate of House Bill No. 101, relating to the salary of Janitor.

Also, by Mr. Johnson, announcing that the Senate had passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 12, to examine into the rates of charges of railroads in this State.

Also that the Senate had agreed to the report of the Conference Committee in relation to House Bill No. 19, the silver coin bill. The bill was then passed by the House.

Senate joint resolution No. 12, to inquire into the rates of travel on the R. & O. Railroad, and to sit during the absence of the Legislature, was taken up and adopted.

Leave of absence for two days was granted to Mr. Davidson.

Mr. Chancellor, from the Special Committee to examine the Penitentiary, submitted the report of that committee, which was adopted.

On motion of Mr. McCaskey, the House adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

SENATE.
Senate met at 9 A. M.

House Joint Resolution No. 5, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State in relation to the judiciary, came up on its second reading as unfinished business of yesterday, and on motion was laid on the table.

House Bill No. 54, to increase the supply of food fishes in the rivers and waters of this State, was read a third time and passed.

House Bill No. 52, to amend the act in relation to the City of Wheeling, was read a third time and passed.

House Bill No. 147, authorizing the Attorney-General to protect the interests of citizens of this State in certain suits, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Grantham yesterday received a dispatch from his constituents and thereupon moved to lay the Capital bill on the table, as he was unable to vote upon it. This morning he arose and moved to take from the table House Bill No. 25, for the permanent location of the State capital, and places it on the calendar.

Mr. Caldwell demanded the yeas and nays, which resulted in yeas 10, nays 10, and the bill was consequently placed on the calendar.

House Bill No. 95, concerning burglary and house breaking, was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, the vote by which House Bill No. 127 was indefinitely postponed was reconsidered. The bill relates to reviving and amending the charter of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company, which was read a third time and passed.

Leave of absence was granted to Mr. Butler for four days.

House Bill No. 93, regulating a sale of the property of joint stock companies, was reconsidered and the bill was laid on the table.

House Bill No. 46, appointing an Adjutant-General of the State, was read a third time and passed.

House Bill No. 25, for the permanent location of the State Capital, was read a third time and passed. The yeas were—Adams, Baxter, Berkshire, Burdett, Dennis, Ferguson, Ferrell, Kirtley, McGinnis, Pugh and Turner—11. The nays were—Caldwell, Clayton, Goff, Johnson, Jones, Loomis, Newton, Scott, Tarr and Mr. President (Arnett)—10.

Mr. Newton changed his vote for the purpose of moving a reconsideration.

Mr. Turner moved to reconsider the bill.

Mr. Burdett moved to lay the motion on the table. Carried by a vote of 12 to 10.

Mr. Burdett was appointed to communicate the passage of the bill to the House.

On motion of Mr. Caldwell, the Senate took a recess until 2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.
Senate met at 2:30 P. M.

House Bill No. 191, making appropriations of public money to pay members of the Legislature, and for salaries of the officers of the State Government, came up on its second reading and was ordered to a third reading.

Mr. Dennis, from the Judiciary Committee, reported back House Bill No. 131, relating to sales of the works and property of railroad and other internal improvement companies under decrees of a court, with the recommendation that it pass.

House Joint Resolution No. 8, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State, was read a first time and ordered to a second reading.

House Bill No. 117, extending the time for certain officers elected by the town of Harper's Ferry in which to qualify, was read a first time and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. Scott, on leave, introduced Senate Bill No. 101, in relation to the Janitor of the State House.

The rules were suspended and the bill was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. Dennis, House Bill No. 141, relating to sales of railroad property, etc., was taken up out of its order and read a second time and passed.

Mr. Adams moved to take up out of its order House Bill No. 13, regulating the sale of the property of joint stock companies under decrees of a court, and making the purchaser a corporation. The bill was read a second and third time and passed.

Mr. Dennis, from the Senate committee on the organization of the Governor, submitted a report, which was adopted.

Mr. Johnson, from the conference committee on the disagreement of the two Houses on House Bill No. 19, reported a compromise which was adopted.

House Bill No. 53, to establish a court of limited jurisdiction in the City of Wheeling, was read a first time and ordered to a second reading.

House Bill No. 97, making general provisions for elections by the people, and providing for filling vacancies, was read a first time and ordered to a second reading.

House Bill No. 107, making an appropriation of public money to the personal representatives of Beniah H. McCallister, deceased, was read a first and second time and ordered to a third reading.

House Bill No. 11, imposing a tax for hospital purposes, was read a first time and ordered to a second reading.

House Bill No. 121, for the relief of Noah State, one of the sureties of D. I. Keeney, late Sheriff of Jackson county, was read a first time and the reference was discharged.

Mr. Johnson offered Senate Joint Resolution No. 12, allowing the joint committee on the investigation of the charges for passengers and rates of freight of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to sit after the adjournment of the Legislature.

On motion of Mr. Scott, the Senate adjourned until 9 A. M. to-morrow.

Sacred Classical Music.
Editors of Intelligencer:

Having that these articles on Church music will not become too "technical" for the general reader, we will this morning send something in reply to your local contributor.

Handel has been given a hearing in some of our city churches lately, which is a very good thing. Mr. Bassett, for instance, has made efforts in that direction some time ago, and deserves great praise. But such an exclusive thing as a city action of Handel cannot yet be spoken of. We know this too well. What has been done is gratefully acknowledged however.

It was done in a good cause. Ought we to thank choir for not giving us an indifferent rendition of classical music? Certainly not. We will thank them all the more for studying and practicing away at classical music until they have learned it. Do you suppose they will refuse to sing it when they know it quite well? If in the study, the work, and "you know."

The citation of hope must yield to noble desire, seconded by noble effort.—Carlyle.

It is asserted that the technical difficulties are great, as a general thing, in classical solos, duets, etc. Not, as a general thing, unless you consider things that are not so. They are exceptional as for instance some of the base solos in the Messiah. Most others are comparatively easy. In Mendelssohn's St. Paul the solos, duets, etc., are all easy. We do not mean easy for common singers. They are not so. We speak of the ladies and gentlemen and organists composing our prominent church choirs. Any one in connection with these, of course, we expect to possess a considerable amount of musical culture, as regards execution as well as theory of music. Of course they do mean to shrink back from a few difficulties.

The question after all is not what they accomplish now, but what they can reasonably be expected to accomplish. We know our singers much as fault. We know a number of them who are willing, nay anxious, to study and work, but they get no chance. They are offered key out of choirs, and before all there is no proper mode of practicing, and there is a lack of leaders. It is wonderful what even a number of inferior singers can and will accomplish by industry under the guidance of a competent leader.

One thing is difficult about those classical solos, duets, etc. It is the accompaniment. It is often easier to find the singer than the accompaniment. The Mozart and Bishop arrangement of Handel's Messiah is comparatively easy. The new arrangement of St. Paul, for instance, is far more elaborate. We must not confound those accompaniments however with the vocal parts. Let any one go through the whole of St. Paul with a

good accompanist on hand, and he will find the "sublime genius" of that oratorio as easy as they are beautiful. The difficulties in the choruses, if it has been remarked, are not so great as to be with in the capacity of our average choir. We differ. We call upon that average choir to come forward and try their hand at a good round chorus from "Elijah," or a fugue. The difficulties may lie within the capacity of that choir, but they lie there asleep. Just see what they will amount to if awakened up. They will look rather big then, and will seem to wrestle with one another. There will be groans and moans and discords and contrary waves of time tumbling over one another, and the tenor will seem to be fighting the bass, and the soprano making faces at the alto, and there will be a general musical ruin in that "average choir" pleasant to behold; and yet, out of that delightful chaos, order may gradually develop itself, if they persevere, and try again, and try in the right manner; if they do not grudge time and effort; if they do not content to see an "entirely new" choir, but have patience only let them approach these choruses and fugues with due respect and not with the light-hearted ease of a "little school girl."

One of the difficulties, indeed, is the almost universal absence of choir. But there is a big church any business to have a choir? We think not; not even if a good quartette is paid, which is to form, so to speak, the nucleus of the vocal forces, or to use another illustration, the royal guards behind whom the reserves are rolling up their numbers.

We do not hold Handel up as the only pattern of sacred classical music. It would be very narrow-minded. But he is one of them sure.

With regard to adopting sacred text to opera or ballet music, it is mentioned that some of Handel's sacred music was fashioned after some of his secular music and that Rossini made up one of his masses from one of his operas. This adoption was in some manner a natural one. They adopted their own children. They chose and modified melodies of their own creation and fitted them for that purpose. They had a right to do so. They alone were to be judges. But does that give entering music publishers in this country a right to take Schubert's "Voice of the Lark" and fit it to sacred text?

That the Neapolitans should be delighted at the fusion of mass and opera is perhaps natural for the Neapolitans who live in Italy. But a fusion of opera and sacred music would scarcely be found so natural among the Presbyterians, Methodists, etc. Not even Roman Catholics would tolerate it in this country. There is a deep, sound, good sense prevailing among our church-going people which seems irrepressible, and always comes back after every effort to suppress it. In accordance with the same instinctive good sense, of our people, we, too, cry out for a good, noble, earnest Christian style of church music.

Says Cramer, in the preface to his Studio, with regard to England: "It is not unreasonable to suppose that our hereditary acquaintance with, and the frequent performances of Handel's works, have, in this country, effected an effectual resistance to the evil influence of florid and vitiated style of the modern Italian school, which has been so unfortunately and perniciously diffused over the whole continent, for nowhere are Handel's works so well understood and so well performed as in England." MAUD.

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